

WA #2 Theme Essay

CATEGORY	3	2	1	0
Position Statement	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A position statement is present, but does not make the author's position clear.	There is no position statement.
Support for Position	Includes 4 or more pieces of evidence that support the position statement. The writer anticipates the reader's concerns, biases or arguments and provides at least 1 counter-argument.	Includes 4 or more pieces of evidence that support the position statement.	Includes 3-2 pieces of evidence that support the position statement.	Includes 1 or fewer pieces of evidence.
Attention Grabber	The introductory paragraph has a strong hook or attention grabber that is appropriate for the audience.	The introductory paragraph has a hook or attention grabber, but it is weak, rambling or inappropriate for the audience.	The author has an interesting introductory paragraph but the connection to the topic is not clear.	The introductory paragraph is not relevant to the topic.
Accuracy	All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported.
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.
Sequencing	Arguments and support are provided in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author's train of thought. (A variety of thoughtful transitions are used. They clearly show how ideas are connected)	Arguments and support are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the author's train of thought. (Transitions show how ideas are connected, but there is little variety)	A few details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay a little confusing. (Some transitions work well, but some connections between ideas are fuzzy.)	Many of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay very confusing. (The transitions between ideas are unclear OR nonexistent.)

Closing paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.
Sentence Structure	All sentences are well-constructed with varied structure.	Most sentences are well-constructed and there is some varied sentence structure in the essay.	Most sentences are well constructed, but there is no variation in structure.	Most sentences are not well-constructed or varied.
Capitalization & Punctuation	Author makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the essay is exceptionally easy to read.	Author makes 1-2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the essay is still easy to read.	Author makes a few errors in capitalization or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.	Author makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader's attention and interrupt the flow.
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.